

Association and a subscription library were officially formed in 1904 and Dr. D. E. McConnell presented the Y.M.C.A.'s offer of the hallway above his office for the new Gastonia library. The Y.M.C.A. also provided \$300 for the setup of the new library and a steady appropriation of \$30 per month budgeted for the library from the income of room rentals in the Y.M.C.A. building. The Gastonia Public Library officially opened January 2, 1905 in the downtown Gastonia Y.M.C.A. Hall. (*The Gastonia Gazette*. January 3, 1905, p. 2, 3; October 10, 1940; April 20, 1969)

The Highland branch of the Gaston County Public Library was opened on November 21, 1943 for African Americans, with Mrs. Robert M. Preer as the Librarian and Miss Wilhelmina Brown as Assistant Librarian. The Highland branch library was located within the Highland school with the purpose of providing free reading and reference facilities to all school personnel and people in the community all year round. The formal opening took place in the Highland school gymnasium and the public was invited to inspect the new library after the program. Both Gastonia City Council and the Gaston County Commissioners made annual appropriations for the purchase of books and the payment of salaries for the Highland Library. The library included both school and County books. (*The Gastonia Gazette*, 22 November 1943, p. 9, "Negro News: Highland Library Opens") (*Highland Library 1st Annual Report, 1943-1944*)

Special Collections

Local history and genealogy